





CHICK CARTER-World Famous Detective THE SHADOW-Crime Fighter Supremo

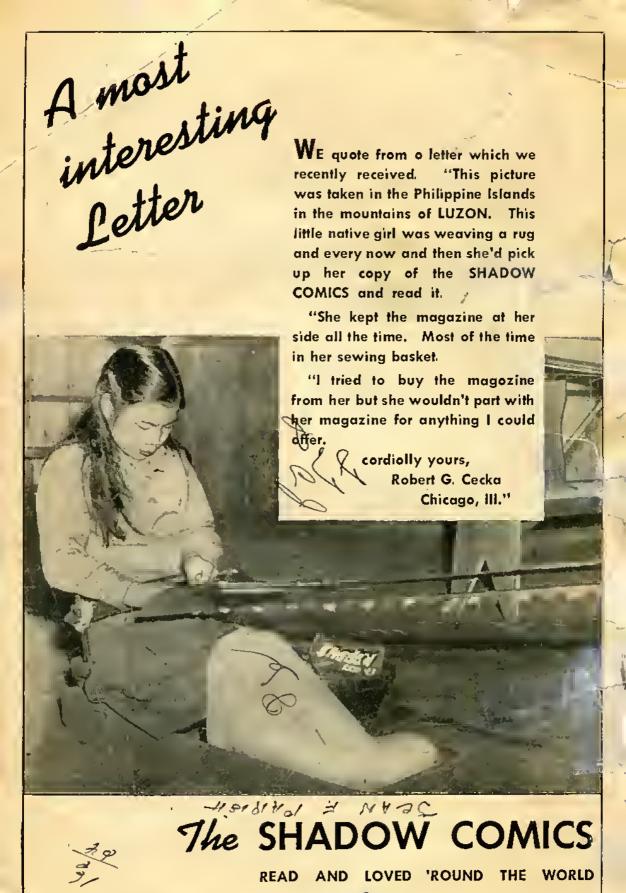






DOC SAVAGE-Science Versus Crime KILLERS CAN'T WIN-A Western Thrille

CRIME DOES NOT PAY



Exper Edonica

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Printed in ONQUERS ME IN CENTRALBA Senor Lamont Cranston
Senor Lamont was york "WHO KNOWS WHAT EVIL LURKS IN THE HEARTS OF MEN? THE SHADOW KNOWS! AND THIS LETTER BRINGS TIDINGS OF CRIME IN CENTRALBA, AN ALMOST FOR GOTTEN LAND WHERE CASTENAGO RULES AS THE VERY MAN OF EVIL WHOSE SWAY MUST BE ENDED BY THE ONLY CHAMPION OF JUSTICE WHOSE POWER CAN STRIKE UNSEEN. he Comic That Proves









WHY, YES! HE EVEN LET
THE PALACE GO TO RACK
AND RUIN LIKE THE
GOVERNMENT. PEOPLE
BECAME SO HOSTILE
THAT I HAD TO PUT
PERIDOR UNDER.
PROTECTIVE: CUSTODY!
BUT COME... YOU ARE
JUST IN TIME FOR OUR
BANQUET!



















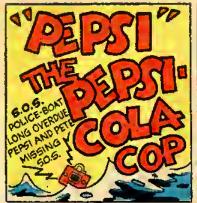
























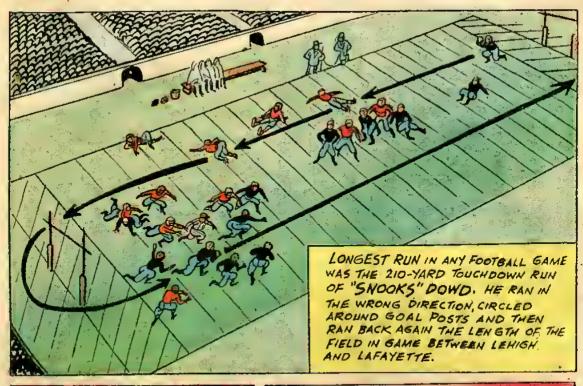


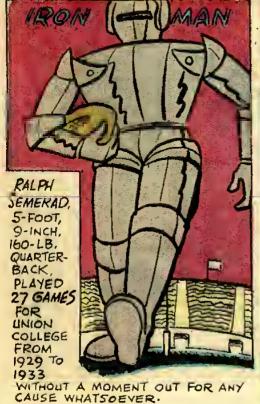






YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT, BUT.











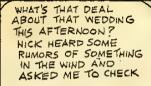












WEDDING ? WEDDING ... OH MY GOSH ... THAT'S MY ASSIGNMENT. WHAT TIME IS









GROAN







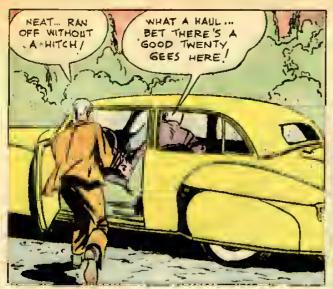




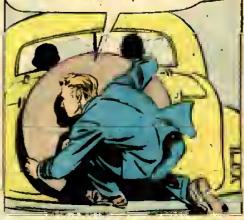


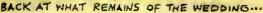






WHAT LUCK ... IF I DON'T GET KILLED OR ANYTHING ELSE UNIMPORTANT LIKE THAT ... I'LL BE ABLE TO KNOCK THIS OFF LIKE A BREEZE!







DON'T TELL ME THAT FOR ONCE YOU TURNED IN A STORY ? SORRY, CHIEF, BUT THERE ISN'T ANY STORY, THE ITY WEDDING WAS CALLED OFF OOM

GEE, I'M



FIRST, HE WRITES UP ROBINS, THEN HE MAKES ME INSULT THE ONLY BANKER WHO'LL GIVE US A LOAN AND NOW ... HE DOESN'T BOTHER TO WRITE UP THE ONLY EXCITEMENT WE'VE HAD IN TEN YEARS ...











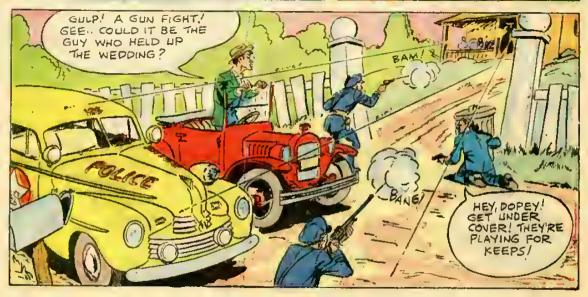


























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CANTEENED DEATH

"THIS envelope contains the details of one of the most diabolical murder methods. I have ever heard of . . ." This was from Nick Carter who had a wide and varied knowledge of murderous methods. For him



to use the word diabolical meant horror of an unusual degree.

He and his foster son Chick were on the podium. The members of the Inner Circle, their sandwiches and soft drinks consumed,

sat and waited for the dessert which was the monthly tale spun by either Nick or Chick, or on some occasions, like this one, by both of the master man hunters.

"By one of those curious freaks of war, I got the last answer to a scries of letters, just a week ago, two years after the end of the war.

"BATTLE"

"The first letter in the correspondence came from Okinawa. The letters in themselves gave a sort of history of the war, for after that first one they followed the tide of battle right up to the end."

'Nick looked at the letter in his hand. "This is the end. But I am getting alread on my story. Chick, you were in the war, suppose you give some of the background."

"I can picture the scene that the first letter conjured up. Imagine if you will, a battle, one of those unromantic little battles that don't seem to decide anything. The only decision is that of death. . . . In a fairly large shell crater, four men hid, using the area as a big fox hole. It wasn't very good, it was open to strafing from above, but there was no 'better 'ole' . . .

"It was hot, hot as only that area can get. The sweat had long since dried out of all the men." They sat and laid there in the dirt each one, thinking his private thoughts . . . We know that most of their thoughts were about one thing . . . treasure . . . You see, in one of their raids they had found a pot of gold."

Chick grinned at the stir of excitement amongst the members. "Oh not literally, a

pot, but they found what must have been the loot of some old, long vanished pirate ship. They found it in another shell crater. Having found it, they promptly buried it, after taking a good look around the place so as to recognize # ** **gain later.



"There was a lot of money represented by the old doubloons and the crudely cut gems. The money that the loot represented meant different things to the four men. To one it meant a chance to become a doctor and do it in style. To another, it meant marriage. To still another, the chance to write the book he had always wanted to write. To the fourth? Who knows . . . for he wanted not HIS share of the money . . . but all of it!"

There was a pause and then Chick went on. "With shells bursting all around, planes, enemy planes strafing the ground till it looked like a plowed field, with death everywhere one looked, one man thought of murder!

"THIRST ... QUENCHED ..."

"They had been in their impromptu fox hole for fourteen hours. Their canteens were all empty. All but one. He the owner of the canteen was known jokingly as the Camel. He could get along longer without water than any other human the men had ever met. His

canteen was almost full. It got hot and hotter still. All three canteens were empty. The Camel, even the Camel, finally had to drink. His canteen was about half full. He drank to his heart's content and handed it on to his buddy, a guy named Geepus. Geepus held the canteen up and the other two men could hear the wonderful sloshing sound of the water. He passed it on. Danny drank next, then Don.

"By that time, the Camel was thirsty again. He drank once more. It was finally night. Sometime during the night, they would have to leave their cover and try to get to water. There was barely an inch of water left in the Camel's canteen.

"But at dawn, one of them was dead, and three of them were ill . . . really ill. If a medic hadn't found them by their groans they might all have been dead . . . all but one.

"It was the Camel who died in the night. Died by poison!"

Nick took up the tale.

"THE IMPOSSIBLE CRIME"

"Geepus, Don and Danny were taken to the field hospital, if it hadn't been for the fast use of a stomach pump . . . well, they were brought out of it.

"Now," Nick cleared his throat, "think of the circumstances. Four men in a fox hole without food and with only one canteen. They were poisoned and the poison could only have been in the canteen. But all three survivors were in accord on one point. No one could have placed anything in the canteen before they drank from it but the Camel!

"Could he have poisoned the water and meant to make himself only slightly ill, while the others died? It didn't seem possible. But if that wasn't the solution how could it have been done. Remember a canteen is completely different from a glass or a cup which is the more usual vehicle for a poisoned draught! It has a small tight neck. And the canteen was precious. They never took their eyes off it they said. The canteen to them represented their only hope of life.

"All this information was in the first letter I received. They had kept quiet about the circumstances of the poisoning, because of the motive. It was obvious that the poisoner, wanted the loot. They didn't see how they could tell their story without telling about the pirate treasure.

"Truthfully it baffled me at first. I went out and bought a canteen and tried to figure out how to hocus it. After all, if the murder had been committed here, someone might have gimmicked up the canteen, put a false compartment in, that held the poison. I remember one such case where a cocktail shaker was made in that manner.

"But I couldn't imagine that having been done on an island in the South Pacific with a battle raging . . .

"FALSE COMPARTMENT"

"But there was a false compartment after all! It was Chick who figured it out!"

Chick said, "It was a false compartment all right, but one that everyone possesses! As soon as I figured out what the murderer must have done, I told Dad. He wrote to the South Pacific.

"After that we didn't hear a word for a long time. I imagined it would be one of those unfinished tales. . . But today, Dad got that letter there on the table. My idea had been the one!

"You see, the drawback to my idea was that anyone of the three survivors might have been the guilty one, Geepus, Danny or Don. I could not tell which.

"If Geepus hadn't been on the receiving end of a hunk of shrapnel, he might have gone on killing till he was the only owner of the loot!

"As he lay dying, he confessed to Danny and Don what he had done. That is he started to but as soon as he said that he had killed the Camel, Don, the one who had written to Dad in the first place, stopped him and explained the way the poison had been added to the canteen.

"Geepus was astounded, he had been sure that his method was insoluble.

"DEATH BED CONFESSION"

"He had imagined that he would be able to kill the other three and then, at some safe time after the end of the war, go back and get the treasure. But, as it turns out, there will soon be a new doctor, and a novel I just read about,

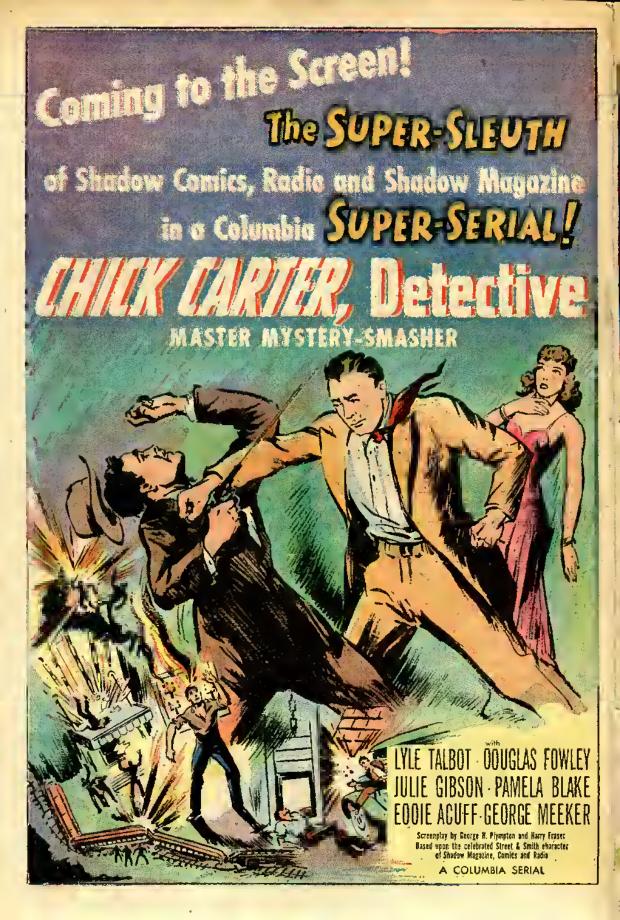


is being published. The treasure did that"

Chick pretended to notice for the first time the puzzled expression on the members faces.

"I can see that Geepus' secret has baffled you. Problem, to add poison to a canteen while three pairs of eyes are watching you! Solution! Hold it in your mouth, the way Geepus did! The poison was aconite, it won't hurr you at all to hold it in your mouth. It has to be in your stomach before it will hurr you!

"Geepus broke a vial of aconite into his mouth. Then, when the Camel handed him the canteen, he did not take any water, he put it to his mouth and pretended to drink; really, he let the poison dribble out of his mouth into the water! That was his secret compartment ... his mouth!"





LET US LOOK INTO THE FUTURE...
IT IS AT A MEETING OF THE
BLACK ROOM SOCIETY
SOMEWHERE ON THE
WESTERN HEMISPHERE...

IT IS FIVE YEARS SINCE WE LAST MET. SINCE THAT GERMANIC DUNCE, HITLER, FAILED US AND WE LOST OUR BID FOR COMPLETE WORLD POWER.



OUR POWERS THEN WERE THE NATURAL RESOURSES OF THE WORLD WHICH THROUGH AGENTS, WE ALONE CONTROL... NOW WITH THE ATOM THE FUTURE SOURCE OF INDUSTRIAL POWER, ALL WE OWN WILL BE WORTHLESS!



WE MUST LEARN ITS SECRETS. WE MUST CONTROL THE ATOM AND THEREBY SECURE OUR POWER AND ENSLAVE THE WORLD!













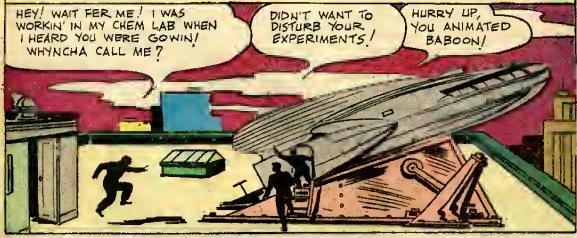


LATER THAT MORNING IN THE ATOMIC LABORATORY OF DOC SAVAGE ...

DOC! A-FISHY REPORT
JUST CAME IN ON THE
TELETYPE. LOOKS LIKE
TROUBLE AT LABORATORY 3!
KLETBUSH'S CAR WAS FOUND
DESERTED... HE'S DISAPPEARED!

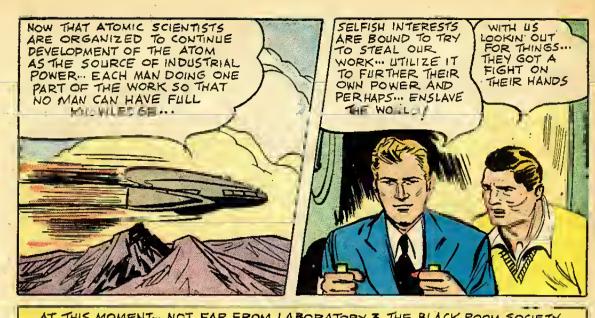


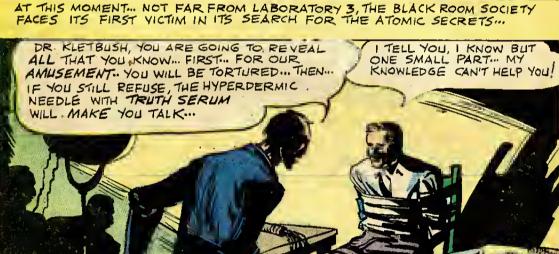
A FEW MINUTES LATER, ATOP DOC SAVAGE'S SKYSCRAPER HEADQUARTERS WHERE DOC'S ROCKET SHIP IS CONSTANTLY READY FOR USE ...

























DON'T MISS DOC SAVAGE'S NEXT ADVENTURE IN WHICH DOC, HIMSELF, IS CAUGHT IN THE BLACK ROOM SOCIETY'S NET OF EVIL!































WHILE THE EXCITING CHASE GOES ON ...





















NOTHING AT
ALL ... BUT THE
FACT THAT SOUPY
SAM IS STILL
AT LARGE

AND

HE STILL WANTS THAT FIVE MILLION BUCKS WORTH OF GEMS









WHEN THE CIVIL WAR BROKE OUT HE JOINED LEE'S FORCES AGAINST THE UNION AND POLIGHT COURAGEOUSLY



BUT WHEN BEN'S SERGEANT 'ROUGHED HIM UP!, THOMPSON KILLED HIM IN A PISTOL FIGHT ...





AFTER A TERM IN THE GUARD-HOUSE, THOMPSON WAS WOUNDED IN ACTION AND SENT HOME.





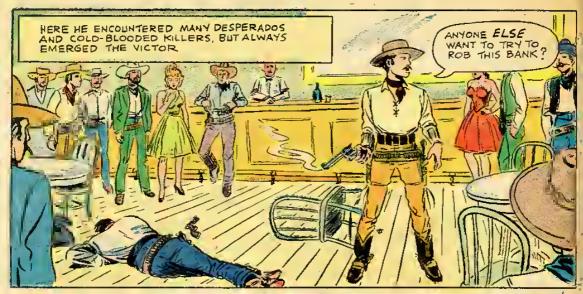


FORE SEEING THE INEVITABLE FALL
OF MAXIMILIAN, BEN DESERTED AND
FLED BACK TO THE COW COUNTRY



HE THEN OPENED A GAMBLING HOUSE IN THE RIP-ROARING COW TOWN OF ABILENE, KANSAS





THOUGH KIND TO HIS FAMILY, BEN REFUSED TO REFORM, PREFERRING TO LIVE BY HIS WITS ...



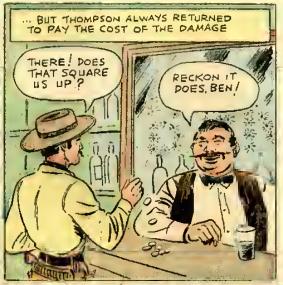


BUT HIS CONSCIENCE KEPT GNAWING AT HIM AND HE WENT ON OCCASIONAL SPREES









THOUGH DEADLY TOWARD HIS ENEMIES, THOMPSON NEVER TURNED DOWN A FRIEND





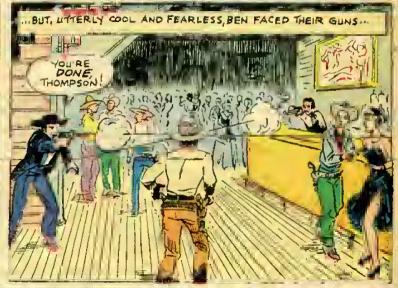
BACK IN TEXAS AGAIN, AND STILL AT WAR WITH HIS CONSCIENCE, BEN WAS PERSUADED TO RUN FOR SHERIFF, BUT WAS BADLY DEFEATED. HIS FIRST TRY AT REFORM HAD FAILED





SO BEN CONTINUED ON HIS GAMBLING WAY TO AUSTIN, TEXAS, WHERE HE BOLDLY WALKED INTO THE DANCE-HALL OF HIS DEADLY ENEMY "IRISH" WILSON,

WILSON HAD . SWORN TO KILL HIM ...



MEBBE YOU'RE WRONG, WILSON

THEN THOMPSON WAS ELECTED MARSHAL OF AUSTIN AND SERVED WELL THE CAUSE OF LAW AND ORDER UNTIL ***

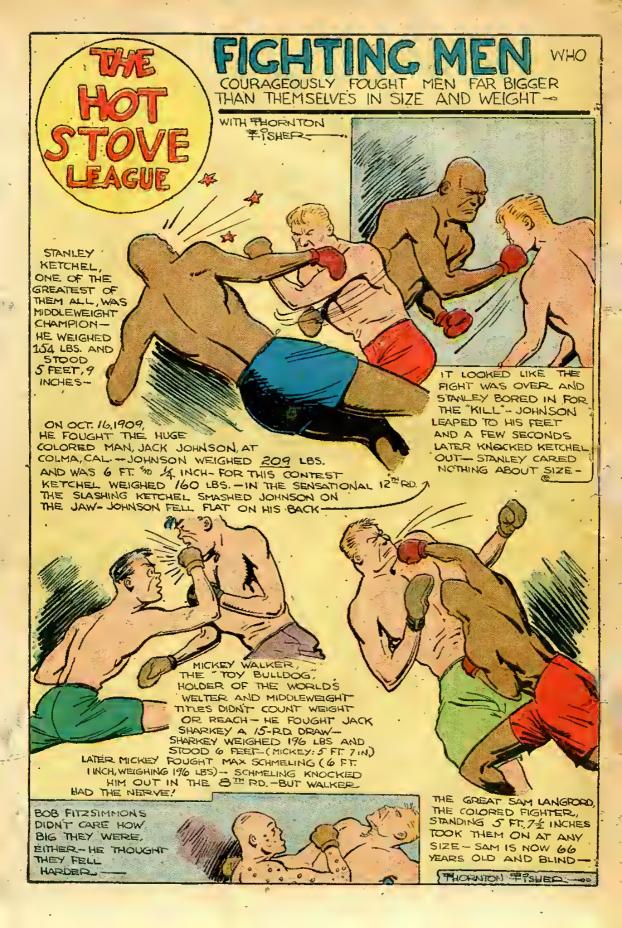


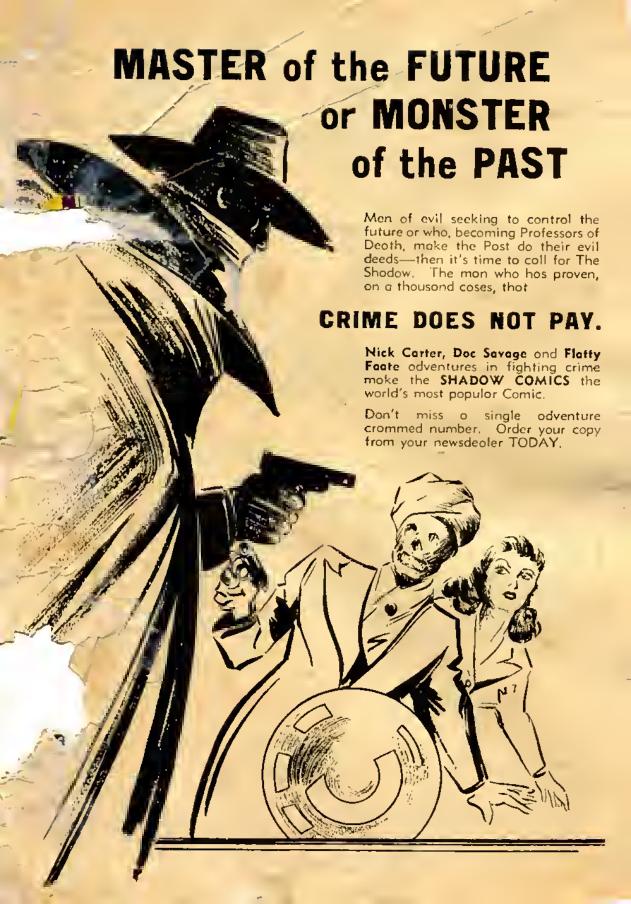
... ONE DAY HE MET UP WITH AN OLD CRONY AND RODE TO SAN ANTONIO TO CALL ON' TWO OLD ENEMIES WHO RAN A SIDE SHOW THERE.

BEN HAD COME TO 'BURY THE HATCHET' BUT HIS KILLER'S REPUTATION WAS HIS UNDOING











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Soon There'll Be Plenty of Daisys ...But Now...Please Be Patient!



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